



## Ashchurch Rural Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24 April 2023 at 6.30pm

**Venue:** The Devereux Centre, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

**Present:** Cllr. J. Hargreaves (Chairman), A. Brown, B. Cook, T. Davies and D. Garnett and five members of the public

**Attendees:** Clerk/RFO, J. Owen, Assistant Clerk L. Beech and A. Grey (Admin. Volunteer)

24.04.23.1 **To receive and consider apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G. Shurmer and D. Street.

**COUNCIL AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Street's absence on medical grounds and confirmed that it would not impact on the six-month attendance rule.

Apologies received from Borough Cllr. M. Gore, last attended 20 March 2023.

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

Cllr. Hargreaves and Davies noted that this meeting was the final in post for Cllr's Brown, Hargreaves, Shurmer and Street and wished to thank all for their long service to the community.

24.04.23.2 **To receive comments from members of the public – no decisions will be made on issues raised, items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting**

A member of the public confirmed that they plan to submit a request to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Tewkesbury Borough Council's (TBC) to investigate the handling of a bridge over rail (ABoR) and establish if they were negligent in their process and handling of tax payer's money.

24.04.23.3 **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests that members may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct**

None declared.

24.04.23.4 **To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 March 2023**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 March 2023 which had previously been circulated to all members were **AGREED BY COUNCIL** and signed by the chairman.

24.04.23.5 **To receive the Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and its content noted.

24.04.23.6 **To receive details of decisions made under delegated authority since the last meeting on 20 March 2023**

None.

24.04.23.7 **To receive a report from the Borough Councillor M. Gore (Borough Cllr. J. Evetts has not attended a meeting to date)**

None received.

24.04.23.8 **To receive a report from the County Councillor**

None received.

24.04.23.9 **To receive a report from the Police Community Support Officer**  
None received. Clerk to create parish specific crime statistics using police crime website and place of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council website.

24.04.23.10 **Finances – documents circulated prior to the meeting**

24.04.23.10.1 **To approve the April 2023 Payment List/those paid since the last meeting and to note receipts**  
**COUNCIL APPROVED** the April 2023 Payment list and payments since the last meeting of **£1454.53** (See Appendix A)

The following payments were also authorised:

- £37.50 to Avonside Taxi's for Taxi Scheme vouchers
- £32.29 for ARPC printer ink
- £231.00 including VAT for Edge IT Year End

The following payments were also received:

- £5916.54 from Richard Buxton Solicitors

24.04.23.10.2 **To approve the bank reconciliation**  
**COUNCIL APPROVED** the bank reconciliation and was signed by Cllr Garnett.

24.04.23.10.3 **To consider new bank signatories and agree actions**  
**COUNCIL AGREED** Cllr. Davies would be added as additional bank signatory. Clerk to add to next agenda to review with new members of Council.

24.04.23.11 **To receive an update on the Local Council Award Scheme Application and consider community engagement activity and agree actions**  
The Local Council Award Scheme reported that evidence of specific community engagement was required to meet the criteria. **COUNCIL AGREED** a traffic survey should be undertaken to engage with community to provide insight into local traffic issues for the Council to consider.

24.04.23.12 **Planning - To consider and agree response to the following:**

24.04.23.12.1 23/00258/ADV - Installation of 2 billboards arranged in a v plan, land South Of The A46 And North Of Tirl Brook, Ashchurch Road, Ashchurch  
**COUNCIL AGREED** to submit a statement of 'No Comment'.

24.04.23.13 **To consider response to Gloucestershire County Council Boundary Review closing date 5 June 2023 – visit link for full details:**  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gloucestershire-0>  
**COUNCIL AGREED** the clerk to investigate the reasoning and implications of the review in more detail before decision is made. Clerk to add to next agenda.

24.04.23.14 **To receive an update on the Garden Town including Draft Strategic Framework Plan and agree actions**  
**COUNCIL CONFIRMED** they are awaiting an upcoming face to face meeting whereby it is expected the next iteration / draft plan of the Garden Town will be outlined.

24.04.23.15 **To receive an update on the Judicial Review and approve final legal fees/re-distribution of funds, also to consider way forward with regard to costs incurred by Tewkesbury**

**Borough Council in relation to lost planning appeals, cost of Garden Town Project and how the expenditure was funded and agree actions**

**COUNCIL CONSIDERED** the redistribution of funds in relation to legal fees. **COUNCIL AGREED** to liaise further with relevant local councils. Clerk to add to next agenda.

**COUNCIL AGREED** to submit a Freedom of Information request to TBC to ascertain the total cost of the aBoR process including the total cost of planning, appeals and legal expenditure. The request would also enquire as to the amounts funded by TBC and that by external stakeholders.

24.04.23.16 **To consider the future of the notice board to be removed from The Meadows and agree actions**

**COUNCIL AGREED** the Ashchurch branded noticeboard should be removed and re-sited in the parish. Clerk to arrange removal and add to next agenda to agree new location.

24.04.23.17 **To receive an update on Highway matters and agree actions**

**COUNCIL AGREED** Clerk confirmed that following responses were received from Gloucestershire Highways (GCC) regarding the following issues raised:

- **B4079 pot holes and road surface both towards Bredon and Oxenton:** GCC will continue to inspect this road on a monthly basis as per it's safety inspection policy and will repair any defects that meet it's intervention criteria as per the policy. The following link can be used by wider community to report issues: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>
- **Slippery surface of B4079:** Referred to January correspondence regarding other factors that make a road slippery (speed, weather, tyres) and 'We will be upgrading the existing signage along this road to further highlight potential hazards. We will consider commissioning a SCRIM test in the new financial year.'
- **The trees and grass near the bridge on the B4079 (Aston Cross) are overgrown / overhanging:** This will be looked into by GCC officers.
- **Aston Cross bridge is still damaged - despite this being raised nearly 12 months ago:** This will be looked into by GCC officers.
- **Is it possible to add signs near bridge at Aston Cross to remind drivers they are entering a residential area:** Awaiting response after clarification of points.

Clerk confirmed the defibrillator would be delivered and installed in the coming weeks and that the refurbishment of the telephone box was ongoing. **COUNCIL APPROVED** up to £150.00 to purchase sundry items for the refurbishment.

24.04.23.18 **To receive an update from community engagement activities (Welcome Tuesdays, Facebook etc) and agree actions**

Clerk raised the issue that taxi voucher eligibility criteria can rule out some in need.

**COUNCIL AGREED** to rephrase wording of criteria to reflect a 'need' that will be assessed on a case by case basis. Clerk to readvertise the scheme.

24.04.23.19 **To note agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting**

- To consider new bank signatories
- To consider response to Gloucestershire County Council Boundary Review
- To receive an update on the Judicial Review and approve final legal fees/re-distribution of funds

24.04.23.20 **Date of the next meeting:** 22 May 2023

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm

**APPENDIX A**

**Ashchurch Rural Parish Council  
Financial Report  
24 April 2023**

<b>Payments made since last meeting on 20.3.23</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Total</b>
GAPTC	Annual Subs	297.29
T. Naylor	PA equipment	250.00
L. Beech	Annual Parish Meeting expenses	24.21
L. Beech	Poster competition prizes - 1st tranche	45.00
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator	2676.90
ESE Direct	2 Grit Bins for Barleyfields	441.60
L. Beech	Poster competition prizes - 2nd and final tranche	100.00
Railton TPC Ltd.	Inv. 2308	1250.00
GAPTC	Inv 7712 Training	60.00
A. Pellegam Ltd.	Inv. 136 Planning Consultant	471.30
Local Government Pension Scheme	March 23 including employee contrib.	622.84
March 23 salaries	March 23 salaries	1990.09
		<b>8229.23</b>
<b>Payment List for authorisation on 24.4.23</b>		
J K Owen	Clerk's expenses March. 23	72.15
L Beech	Assistant Clerk's expenses March 23	25.65
Virgin Media	Mobile phones - Inv. 2395530355	14.06
Microsoft Apps	Monthly fee - Inv. E0500MR3BW	9.48
Jeremy Brookes	Inv. 2157 - April 23 Grounds Maintenance	1245.00
ICO	Data Protection Annual Fee	40.00
Macdonalds Trad. Cobblers	Keys cut	11.85
Gooch Group	Inv. 53653 - 2 bus shelters cleaned 4.4.23	36.34
		<b>1454.53</b>
<b>Receipts since last meeting on 20.3.23</b>		
Richard Buxton Solicitors refund	Received on 6.4.23	5916.54
<b>Bank acc. Balances at 12.4.23</b>		
Current Account		34485.51
Deposit Account		22011.44
	<b>Closing balance at Unity Trust Bank</b>	<b>56496.95</b>

Signed ..... Date .....  
**Chairman, J. Hargreaves**

The draft minutes will be approved at the next Parish Council Meeting.